

# HAMSTER & G RETEL



By Dan Povenmire



Kevin Miller, 16, has recently gotten his driver's license, but instead of the endless freedom he thought would come with this rite of passage, he is constantly stuck shuffling his little sister, Gretel, around town to her various lessons and appointments. Kevin doesn't know what his destiny is, but he is sure it must be more than just being a chauffeur to a seven-year-old.

One night, Kevin is driving his sister to her Gymnastic class and Gretel has a little plastic habitat on the seat next to her housing her pet hamster, "Hamster." The minivan breaks down on a deserted bridge and while Kevin tries to fix it, they are visited by a flying saucer that tells them that the two of them have been chosen to be heroes on earth and will be given super powers. To Kevin's dismay, "the two of them" that the aliens were referring to appears to be Gretel and Hamster.



So now Kevin's little sister and her pet hamster "Hamster" are: **"Hamster and Gretel"** beloved super heroes, saving the city on a regular basis. Kevin, on the other hand is stuck being "the guy in the chair at the computer with the headset" who's guiding them and communicating any new information to them as it becomes available. Stuck far away from the action, but at least he's a part of the team.

Being the older brother, and much less impulsive than his younger sister, Kevin always has a clear-cut plan for each mission, but since Gretel is nine and mostly energy and id, she rarely sticks to the parameters laid out by her older brother. Gretel's instincts may seem badly thought-out and just plain wrong most of the time, but though things always look like they are going disastrously they always work out in the end. This makes it even more frustrating for Kevin, who believes (correctly) that Gretel never learns anything from her mistakes.

Hamster, on the other hand, has fantastic instincts, but since he cannot talk (and doesn't seem interested in charades at all) he never communicates his hunches to either of the kids.

Kevin and Gretel's parents have no idea that their kids are part of a Super Hero team with their pet rodent, nor do any of the kids in school. And Kevin still has to drive Gretel to all her lessons and practices and little-kid birthday parties, even though she could literally fly there on her own.

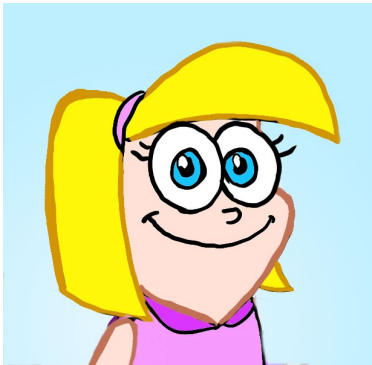
As resentful as Kevin is about being passed over for greatness, he is also very protective of his little sister, and worries constantly that she has gotten in over her head. He will often rush into danger himself if he thinks she is in too deep.

## CHARACTERS



### **Hamster-**

He's a hamster. He doesn't talk because...you know, he's a hamster. He always seems to know what's going on before anyone else does, but doesn't try to communicate that information in any way. He's just always where he needs to be when he needs to be there.



### **Gretel-**

Kevin's seven-year-old sister is full of energy, enthusiasm, and unearned confidence. Like most seven year-olds, she is mostly id and rarely overthinks anything. She doesn't necessarily go with her gut as much as she just does whatever her short attention span allows her to focus on at the moment. She loves and idolizes her older brother and doesn't quite get why he is full of teen angst.



### **Kevin-**

16 years old. Kevin was hoping that getting his driver's license would have brought with it more freedom and less indentured servitude as his little sister's chauffeur. The feeling that he is now little more than a servant to a seven-year-old is exacerbated by Gretel's newfound super powers. He's now still working for her but even more behind the scenes. Justin would like nothing more than to impress Twilly, the cute girl who works at the comic book store and is really obsessed with this new "Hamster and Gretel" super hero team who are running around town. Although it is pretty well known at school, Kevin doesn't want Twilly to know that it's his sister, because he doesn't want her to think of him as a second banana to a seven-year-old.



### **Twilly-**

Twilly is the adorable geeky girl that works at Kevin's favorite comic book shop. She is an avid fan of, and expert on, all things super-hero. She is oblivious to Kevin's affections and his subtle attempts to impress her. She will often be used in the series to shine a light on comic book conventions that we might be lampooning at any given point. She will comment on ridiculous comic conventions like "How can people not recognize him? He just put on a cape took off his glasses!" But then in the next breath she will not recognize Gretel, even when she's standing in front of her favorite "Hamster and Gretel" poster.



### **Winnifred-**

"Fred" to her friends, is Kevin's best friend. She has a dry sarcastic wit and observes most of the human race with a cool detachment as if they were specimens in a jar. She's known Kevin since they were kids and even though he acts just as ridiculous as the rest of the world, she can totally stand being around him because he gets her. She's the school's resident computer genius, as well as a budding artist and creates a Hamster and Gretel comic, that hardly mentions Kevin at all. Fred thinks it's amusing that Twilly hasn't figured it out that Kevin is Gretel's brother, and hilarious that Kevin won't tell her.



### **Lonny-**

Lonny is Gretel's best friend at school. She is often put in the position of crowd control when Gretel is beset by her fans. She fancies herself the smartest 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and now that Gretel is by far the *strongest* 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, she is sure that they will rule the school together. She loves that Gretel is now a super hero, but does get disappointed when missions interfere with their girl time.

## **Season One Big Story**

Through the course of the season we will find out that other two-person teams around the world were also given super powers. But with all the other teams, they are always a brother/sister duo. Kevin realizes that he must have been the intended target of the gift and if they can just find that flying saucer, maybe he can right this great wrong and take his rightful place in the pantheon of earth's champions. But finding the time to hunt down the aliens becomes more and more difficult as new super villains pop up every week and they must be dealt with first.

Kevin and Gretel find out that all these new super-powered bad guys did not just happen accidentally; they too were given their powers by seemingly the same UFO!

Are the aliens just using earth as a playing ground for their own twisted game or is there something even bigger afoot? Hamster and Gretel (and Kevin) will try to get to the bottom of this over the course of the season, while also getting their homework done and keeping their identities a secret from almost everyone.

When the kids are finally able to track down the UFO. This time when they find the aliens, they are able to get up inside the flying saucer, but they only see the aliens through a filtered glass screen and they can only make them out as silhouettes. When Kevin tells them that they made a huge mistake and gave his powers to Hamster, the head alien tells them that it was not a mistake. They only wanted Gretel and Hamster to have the powers. They specifically excluded Kevin. Plus, they won't tell him why which is very frustrating to Kevin.

The aliens also reveal the reason they have been seeding the earth with heroes but also with super powered villains. It is so that the heroes can hone their skills in preparation for a challenge that is coming. The entire earth will need heroes soon, heroes at the top of their game, and so far, only Hamster and Gretel have been undefeated. The aliens give credit to Kevin for being the factor that has tipped the scales for his team, none of the other hero teams has a Kevin... but he still doesn't get any powers.

While Kevin is talking to the Aliens, Gretel is able to find a way around the screen and take a cell phone pic of the actual aliens. One of them is familiar to them. It is Kevin and Gretel's grandfather who disappeared during a military mission years ago. He was working at area 51 at the time!

## **Season Two**

The stakes get upped from battling super villains with petty plots to defending the earth against an invasion from a hugely powerful villain and his alien army. One by one, earth's heroes fail until it is all in the hands of Hamster and Gretel (and Kevin). The villain has the shut-off switch for his doomsday machine protected behind a force field that will not allow anyone with super powers through and is located where a regular human could never reach it. Gretel and

Hamster are able to carry Kevin up to it but they will have to launch him through it but if he can't get to the button, he'll fall into some deadly spinning blades, but if he is able to hit the button, then Hamster and Gretel will be able to catch him and also save the day. Kevin decides he will risk it and it is a close call, but he is able to hit the button and Hamster and Gretel save him just before he hits the blades. Then Hamster and Gretel are able to go on and defeat the villain saving all of earth, but they would not have been able to do it if Kevin had not disabled the machine and he was only able to do that because he does not have super powers.